



Nevada Office of Veterans Services
950 West Owens Avenue, Suite III
Las Vegas, NV 89106

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MAIL CALL!

To receive NOVS news, visit
www.veterans.nv.gov, select *Services for Women* and then *Join Our Mailing List*.
We will never share, sell, or trade your
information.

NEVADA WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2010

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<http://veterans.nv.gov/blog>



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES



VISION

To be the premier provider of veteran services.

MISSION

We establish and define our mission as three inter-related components:

- To provide a full continuum of quality services to eligible veterans and their families.
- To provide an environment of growth and opportunity to our employees.
- To provide our community and partners the opportunity to contribute in this endeavor.

In addition, NOVS focuses outreach efforts on diverse populations of veterans, including women veterans, those residing in rural areas, veterans of the Global War on Terror, and homeless veterans.

SERVICES

NOVS is an advocate and provider of care for Nevada veterans. Serving America's heroes means understanding the stages of a veteran's life. NOVS understands those stages and provides the following core services:

- Veterans benefits assistance and advocacy.
- Skilled nursing services to veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents through the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City.
- Memorial services through the veterans memorial cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City.



Carole's Corner

Happy holidays. I wish you a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year. Give generously to those less fortunate and you will receive blessings many times over in return.

My comrades, I am pleased to announce that the Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) will be hosting the 4th Annual Nevada Women Veterans Summit next March. NOVS is fortunate to be able to host the event this year due to the generous contributions of the Nevada veterans' specialty license plate fund. The Summit will have a new look and feel this year with many surprises. NOVS will host the Summit in partnership with the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System in honor of Women History Month and to educate and celebrate Nevada's women veterans. All female National Guard, Reservists, active duty and veterans are invited. Program updates will be posted on the web site. Complete and return the enclosed postcard today to pre-register and receive your invitation. Please register on the NOVS Women Veterans web site link at http://www.veterans.nv.gov/women_vets_email.html to receive regular updates on information of importance to you and to ensure that you are on our mailing list. You can receive future copies of this newsletter in your home mailbox by joining our mailing list.

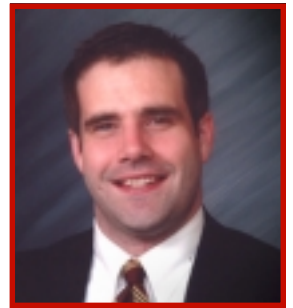
Remember that you can contact me via the NOVS web site by selecting the 'Contact Us' link on the home page, or by phone at (702) 636-3070. I look forward to hearing from you, and don't forget, Nevada Women are Veterans too . . . I am one of those Nevadans to proudly boast that honor.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Nevada Women Veterans Newsletter.

Serving America's Heroines,
Carole L. Turner, RN, MN
NOVS Deputy Director

HAVE YOU HEARD? Meet Caleb Cage

In July, Nevada Office of Veterans Services Executive Director Tim Tetz left his position with the agency to continue serving America's heroes as the National Legislative Director of the American Legion in Washington, D.C.



Caleb Cage, a veteran of the United States Army, was appointed to replace Mr. Tetz as Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services by Governor Jim Gibbons, effective August 16, 2010.

A native of Reno, Director Cage is a 2002 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and attained the rank of Captain in the United States Army. He was awarded the Army's Bronze Star Medal for his service in Iraq. Prior to joining the Nevada Office of



Veterans Services, Director Cage served as Senior Policy Advisor for rural and veterans issues for Nevada Lieutenant Governor Brian Krolicki.

Please join us as we welcome Director Cage into the NOVS family!

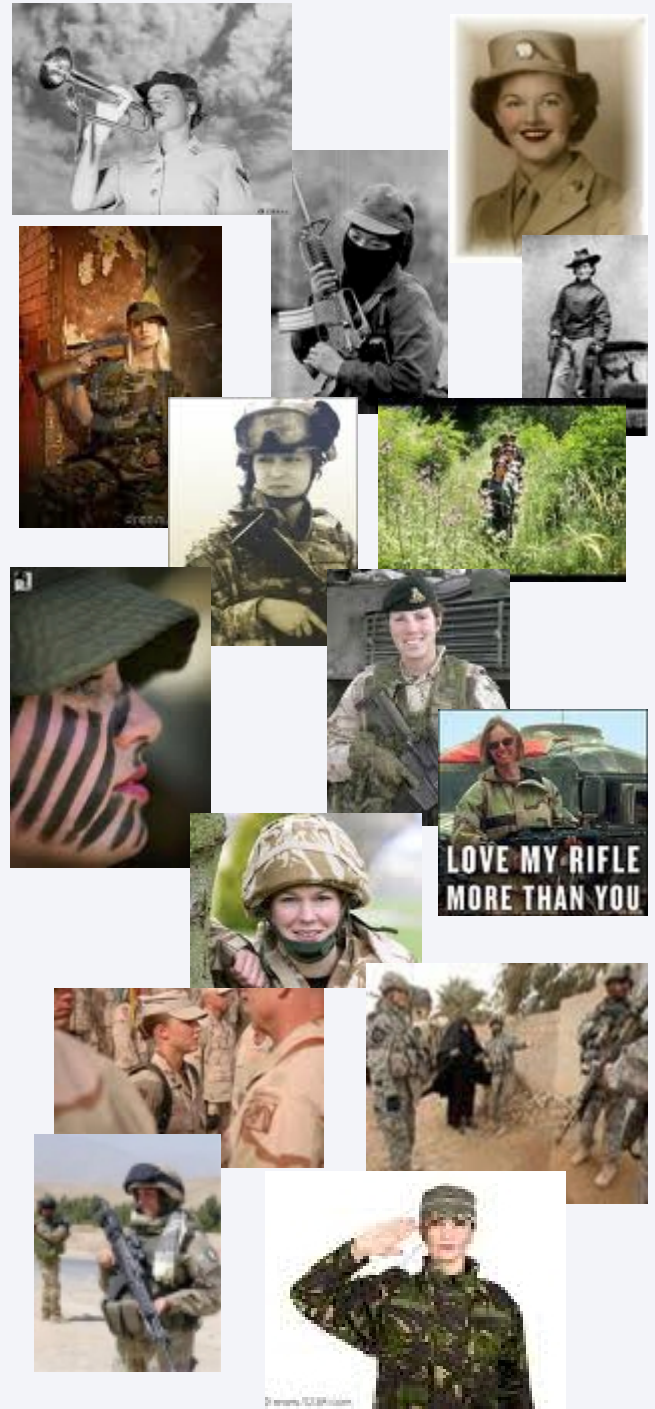
Governor Appoints Three New Members to Nevada Veterans Services Commission

Governor Jim Gibbons recently appointed Charles Harton and Frank A. Partlow, Jr., of Reno and Robert (Bob) Garlow of Boulder City to serve on the Nevada Veterans Services Commission. The commission advises the governor, legislature, and directors of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services regarding aid or benefits to veterans. The new appointees join Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Senator Terry Care, Ronald Gutzman, William Baumann, Michael Musgrove, and Sally Wiley to form the nine-member commission. The members represent nationally recognized veterans' organizations, the general public, the Nevada Senate and Assembly, and the Northern and Southern Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committees. They each serve a two-year term.

OVER 24,000 WOMEN VETERANS CALL NEVADA HOME

Historical Facts about American Women and the Military

- ◆ The first woman awarded a disability pension by Congress for wounds incurred during military service was Margaret Corbin. She took over her fallen husband's cannon in the Battle of Fort Mifflin during the American Revolution and she herself was wounded.
- ◆ During the War of 1812, two women served as nurses aboard Captain Stephen Decatur's flag ship USS *President*.
- ◆ During the Civil War women disguised as men served on both sides. Women also served as spies, nurses—including aboard at least one hospital ship—and one, Dr. Mary Walker, received the Medal of Honor.
- ◆ Harriet Tubman, an African American, served as a volunteer nurse, spy, and scout for the Union Army during the Civil War.
- ◆ Women have served in the American armed forces for over 100 years—since 1901—when the Army Nurse Corps was established. The Navy Nurse Corps soon followed in 1908.
- ◆ Women who were not nurses were first enlisted in the Navy and Marine Corps during World War I. Only nurses served in the Army during this war, but the Army did hire about 200 civilian women who were fluent in both English and French to serve as telephone operators. These women, often referred to as the “Hello Girls,” were later given veteran status.
- ◆ 432 American military women were killed during World War II. 88 were prisoners of war, all but one of these in the Pacific Theater.
- ◆ Seven women died in the line of duty while serving in theater during the Vietnam War. Their names can be found inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial.
- ◆ Almost 41,000 women served in theater during the Persian Gulf War. Thirteen women were killed and two were taken as prisoners of war.
- ◆ To date, more than 20,000 women have served as peacekeepers in Bosnia and Kosovo.
- ◆ Two women sailors were killed and five were wounded in the terrorist attack on USS *Cole* in 2000.
- ◆ In November 2008, Ann E. Dunwoody became the U.S. Army's first female four-star General.
- ◆ Over 1.8 million women have served in the U.S. military.
- ◆ 245,000 female soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ◆ The largest group of women veterans today served in the OEF/OIF operations.
- ◆ Women make up 11.3 percent of OEF/OIF Veterans.
- ◆ It is estimated that within a decade, women will make up 16 percent of all veterans.



Women in Individual Military Conflicts

Civil War	Unknown
Spanish-American War	1,500
World War I	35,000
World War II (era)	400,000
Korea (in theater)	1,000
Vietnam (in theater)	7,500
Grenada (deployed)	170
Panama (deployed)	770
Desert Storm (in theater)	41,000

Source: Women's Research & Education Institute, October 2009

NOVS NAMES NEVADA WOMAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Ms. Sharon Wagner, Veterans Service Officer



Sharon made her decision at 11 years old to join the Air Force to see the world and get an education. In August 1968, she worked as an administrative assistant in Texas in the 7th Bomb Wing Operations, where she received orders to Japan. In Japan she worked in the publishing division, protocol, and the base commander's office. She also enjoyed playing volleyball and baseball while there.

Sharon worked as a clerk in Reno City Hall in 1975 before joining the Nevada Air National Guard along with her ex-husband in July 1976 to resume her military career. For advancement, she entered the Nevada Army National Guard as an administrative technician in the 20th Army Band in 1978. After making smashing sounds with her cymbals, she re-enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard to test, enlist, evaluate, promote and discharge service members. MSgt Wagner

separated in July 1984 to return to the civilian world for opportunities in the insurance industry.

In July 1985 Sharon joined the Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) to advocate for veterans and re-entered the Nevada Air National Guard, serving from July 1993 to July 1999. She was transferred to the Reserves, retiring in June 2009 with 32 years of service.

In 2001 she served as Vice President of the Women Veterans of Nevada and veterans service officer in the Pahrump Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Sharon has served as the veterans service officer for the Nevada Department of the American Legion, district, and post since 2004 and has been a member for 24 years.

Sharon has brought over \$6 million in federal benefits to Nevada veterans. On November 1, 2010, after serving 25 years with NOVS, Sharon began a new journey. Her goals are to live life, walk the shorelines of both coasts, and drive up, over and through the mountains of the United States. Sharon, we salute you as the Nevada Woman Veteran of 2010. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Of Interest to You

VA Releases Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force Report

In August 2009, Secretary Shinseki directed a comprehensive review of the Department's approach and practices in meeting the needs of veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War. The 2010 final report on that review is at <http://www.va.gov/Final20GWVI-TFReport.pdf>

Women Veterans' Health and Wellness Web Site

Women represent just over 14 percent of active duty soldiers, and they are being placed in combat situations that expose them to a variety of traumatic stressors that can affect them after returning home. A new resource to support these women and help them cope with the emotional, physical and/or psychological traumas with which military members and veterans may be dealing is now available at <http://www.healthywomen.org/healthcenter/military-veterans-health-and-wellness>

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed a 5-year plan with the goal of ending homelessness among the nation's veterans. At the November 2009 Homeless Summit, Secretary Shinseki announced the key strategies VA would be implementing to end homelessness among veterans by 2014. Veterans and others in the community can now call the NCCHV at (877) 4AID-VET or 877-424-3838 to be connected to a trained VA clinical staff member 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

CORRABORATING MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)

Using DD Form 2910, Victim Reporting Preference Statement

In order to provide care to MST victims, the Department of Defense (DoD) created the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) and its associated positions of Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and Victim Advocate. These individuals provide care and support, and assist the service member with filing a report. Additionally, each branch of the military has its own sexual assault prevention program. DoD offers two reporting options for MST: restricted and unrestricted. Restricted reporting allows a service member to file a report confidentially without initiating the investigative process. Following an MST incident, a service member may elect one of these reporting options. Both the service member and the SARC or Victim Advocate signs the form. The service member is given a copy of DD Form 2910. Other forms may have been used prior to the issuance of DD Form 2910. For example, the Department of the Navy used the form NAVPERS 1752/1, *Sexual Assault Incident Data Collection Report*.

The service member may also elect an optional sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE). A SAFE is performed by a healthcare provider and is documented on DD Form 2911. In restricted reporting cases, DoD stores the evidence, including results from the SAFE, for one year following the date of the victim's report of sexual assault. If the victim does not claim the evidence or elect an unrestricted report within one year, DoD destroys it.

Use the following links for contact information:

Department of Defense

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO)
<http://www.sapr.mil>

Army

Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
http://www.sexualassault.army.mil/what_to_do.cfm
Note: Click on the "SARC Roster" link for contact information.

Air Force

Air Force Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

Navy

Navy Sexual Assault Victim Intervention Program (SAVI)
<https://www.nffsp.org/skins/nffsp/home.aspx>
Note: Click on "FFSC Locations" link for contact information.

Marine Corps

Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention Program
<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sapro/pocs.cfm?sid=ml&smid=2>

Coast Guard

Coast Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
<http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/contact.asp>

National Guard

National Guard Sexual Assault and Prevention Program
<http://www.ng.mil/jointstaff/j1/sapr/contacts.aspx>



Did you know?

As a woman veteran, you are eligible to receive gender-specific services, including pap smears, mammograms, prenatal, and childcare.

Do You Qualify?

There are many ways that a veteran may qualify to receive VA health care. You may also be able to receive assistance with prescription medication. VA health care is portable. Once enrolled, you may receive care at your home facility as well as the nearest VA facility while traveling.

Have Questions?

Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). See if you qualify at www.va.gov/healtheligibility/do-you-qualify.asp

The VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System Women Veterans Program Manager, Nancy Faye, LCSW, is located at the VA Central Clinic/Delta Point, 901 Rancho Lane in Las Vegas. Nancy can be contacted at (702) 636-3000 ext. 6106.

The VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System Women Veterans Program Manager, Zola Ferguson, Physician's Assistant, is located at 1000 Locust Street in Reno. Zola can be contacted at (775) 786-7200 ext. 1767.

As of June 15, 2009, VA eligibility rules changed, making it easier for veterans to qualify for VA health care. Under this new regulation, VA relaxed income restrictions on enrollment for health benefits.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Wreaths Across America

December 11, 2010 9:00 a.m.

Boulder City and Fernley Veterans Memorial Cemeteries



NOVS Legislative Summit

January 8, 2011 - Reno

The purpose of the Summit is to use the information gathered earlier this year at the Legislative Symposium to finalize the 2011 legislative agenda. This will be followed by a Veterans Day at the Legislature on March 24 in Carson City.



Nevada Women Veterans Summit 2011: High Tea

March 11, 2011 - The Governor's Mansion, Carson City

NOVS will host the Summit in partnership with the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System in honor of Women History Month and to educate and celebrate Nevada's women veterans. All female National Guard, Reservists, active duty and veterans are invited. Program updates will be posted on the web site. Complete and return the enclosed postcard today to pre-register and receive your invitation.



5th Annual Women's Health and Information Fair

March 19, 2011 - Las Vegas

This event, sponsored by the Nevada National Guard Family Assistance and American Legion Post 149, will feature health and wellness booths, information, vendors, and more. All ladies connected to the military are invited.

For more information, contact Yvette Weigold at yvette.weigold@us.army.mil or 702-632-0513.



Veterans Day at the Legislature

March 24, 2011 - Carson City

Learn about the legislative priorities of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services and influence decisions regarding veterans' concerns with lawmakers at the Nevada Legislature.

Find more information about NOVS events as it becomes available at www.veterans.nv.gov

Share Your Thoughts

Nevada Office of Veterans Services - Services for Women

Help us help you better understand your status and the benefits for which you are eligible by taking a brief online survey. Visit www.veterans.nv.gov, select *Services for Women*, and then *Take our Survey*. We value your feedback, and taking our survey is the quickest and easiest way to share your thoughts.



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Toll Free 866-630-VETS (8387)

www.veterans.nv.gov

LOCATIONS

Reno Office

**5460 Reno Corporate Drive
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 688-1653**

Las Vegas Office

**950 West Owens Avenue, Room III
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 636-3070**

Satellite Office

**4800 Alpine, 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89107**

Elko County Office

**155 South 9th Street
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 777-1000**

Churchill County Office

**485 West B Street, Suite 103
Fallon, NV 89406
(775) 428-1177**

Southern Nevada

**Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 486-5920**

Northern Nevada

**Veterans Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, NV 89408
(775) 575-4441**

Nevada State Veterans Home

**100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 332-6784**